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# Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /088 W
---------- 120787
R 091618Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6344
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL OPORTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GW, PO, SP
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR LABOR LEADER TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: LISBON 400

SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME FROM GERMAN SOURCES OF THE NEEDS FOR LABOR LEADER TRAINING OUTLINED IN REFTEL AS WELL AS OF RELATED FRG DESIRES FOR MORE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USG AND AMERICAN UNIONS WITH FRG AID INSTITUTIONS AND TRADE UNIONS IN SUCH LABOR DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, THE APPROPRIATE US INSTITUTONAL CAPABILITY APPARENTLY DOES NOT EXIST IN
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EUROPE, WHERE IMPORTANT TRADE UNIONS WORK JOINTLY WITH

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GOVERNMENT-FINANCED PRIVATE AID INSTITUTIONS. TO PROVIDE THE SAME CAPABILITY FOR THE USG AND TRADE UNIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN WESTERN EUROPE, ONE POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION MIGHT BE TO CREATE AN AMERICAN LABOR INSTITUTE FOR EUROPE FINANCED BY AID AND US LABOR GROUPS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXISTING IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO AMEND THE AID GRANT OR CONTRACT OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER TO INCLUDE COOPERATIVE LABOR PROGRAMS IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, FRG FOUNDATIONS AND TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES HAVE INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR AND THE LABOR ATTACHE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THE DESIRABILITY FOR RESTORING THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COOPERATION THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THE US GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNIONS AND THEIR GERMAN COUNTERPARTS DURING THE MARSHALL PLAN.

2. SINCE THE RETURN OF IRVING BROWN TO EUROPE AS EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFL-CIO, HE ALSO HAS HAD TALKS WITH THE DGB AND THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION ABOUT POTENTIAL COOPERATION WITH THE AFL-CIO-SPONSORED LABOR INSTITUTES THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT AND WORK WITH TRADE UNIONS AND MINISTRIES OF LABOR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN PLANNED AND AT LEAST THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC), THE GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB) AND THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION HAVE STARTED TALKS AND CONTACTS ABOUT COOPERATION IN AFRICA.

3. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN DEVELOPING COOPERATION IN EUROPE REVOLVES AROUND THE LACK OF A COUNTERPART INSTITUTION IN EUROPE LIKE THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) IN AFRICA, THE ASIAN AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE (AAFLI) IN ASIA AND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD)IN LATIN AMERICA. THESE AFL-CIO-SPONSORED LABOR INSTITUTES ARE SUPPORTED BY THE USG UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AND WORK WITH TRADE UNIONS AS WELL AS WITH LABOR
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AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OUTLINED IN US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION OF STRENGTHENING FREE TRADE UNIONS AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH THE PRINCIPAL SOVIET LABOR EFFORTS ARE FOCUSED IN THE EUROPEAN AREA AND THE FRG AND WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE SIMILAR GOVERNMENT-FINANCED PRIVATE AID INSTITUTIONS, WHICH DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER

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LABOR ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADE UNIONS, THERE IS NO APPROPRIATE
US COUNTERPART AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS OR
AGREEMENTS ON COOPERATIVE LABOR TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS IN EUROPE WITH THESE EUROPEAN PRIVATE AID
INSTITUTIONS AND TRADE UNIONS. IN THE FRG, SUCH IN-
STITUTIONS INCLUDE THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION (WORK-
ING WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND SYMPATHETIC
TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS), THE KONRAD ADENAUER FOUN-
DATION (WORKING WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND

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RELATED TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS) AND THE FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION (WORKING WITH LIBERAL PARTIES AND SYMPATHETIC TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS). THESE PRIVATE AID INSTITUTIONS, SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY THE FRG, WORK WITH THE GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB) AND THE GERMAN SALARIED EMPLOYEES UNION (DAG) IN DEVELOPING SOCIAL AND LABOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITHIN THE FRG AS WELL AS IN EUROPE AND IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD.

4. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE EMBASSY SUGGESTED IN ITS 1974 U.S. LABOR POLICY ASSESSMENT (BONN A-197, APRIL 7, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1974) THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING AN AMERICAN LABOR INSTITUTE TO WORK WITH EUROPEAN UNIONS FOLLOWING THE PATTERN OF THE OTHER AFL-CIO INSTITUTES WORKING IN THE OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE MAY BE REVISING THE AID CONTRACT OR GRANT OF AN EXISTING AFL-CIO-SPONSORED LABOR INSTITUTE TO DEVELOP LABOR PROGRAMS IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE THE AFRJCAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER, WHICH HAS PRECEDENTS OF WORKING WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND TRADE UNIONS AND HAS NEGOTIATED COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE AND THE FRENCH GENERAL FEDERATION OF LABOR WORKERS (FORCE OUVRIERE).

5. IN VIEW OF THE NEED FOR LABOR LEADER TRAINING OUTLINED IN LISBON 400, SOARES' MEETINGS WITH AFL-CIO AND UAW LEADERS IN JANUARY, AND THE NEW AID PROGRAMS BEING DISCUSSED TO ASSIST PORTUGAL IN ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS (AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN SPAIN), THE DEVELOPMENT OF AID-FINANCED LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USG AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THESE AREAS WOULD SEEM TO BE TIMELY TO MEET THE GROWING AND APPARENT NEEDS CREATED BY COMMUNIST INITIATIVES TARGETED ON LABOR GROUPS IN THESE COUNTRIES.

6. IF THIS IDEA IS ACCEPTABLE, WE THINK THE GERMANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN A COMMON EFFORT. ONE WAY THIS COULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE PLANNING WOULD BE FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND AID TO INVITE A SURVEY TEAM, INCLUDING US TRADE UNION LEADERS WITH FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES SUCH AS IRVING BROWN, EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFL-CIO, AND MICHAEL BOGGS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE AFL-CIO, TO VISIT PORTUGAL AND SPAIN AS WELL AS OTHER WEST

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EUROPEAN CAPITALS ACTIVE IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WORK IN THESE COUNTRIES, TO SURVEY THE FEASIBILITY OF US-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THIS AREA.

7. IRVING BROWN HAS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE ESTABLISH-
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MENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER AND OF FRENCH-US COOPERATION, AND BOGGS PARTICIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERAL COOPERATIVE LABOR PROJECTS IN BRAZIL AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD BE ESPECIALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND MAY BE WILLING TO SURVEY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EMBASSY LISBON AND AID/WASHINGTON ON THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND SPAIN AND PERHAPS LATER IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE LABOR ASSISTANCE OR COOPERATIVE LABOR EFFORTS WITH LEADING WEST EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS ARE NECESSARY.

8. IF THIS SUGGESTION IS ACCEPTED, OR IF SOME OTHER AVENUE HAS BEEN CHOSEN, THE EMBASSY WILL BE HAPPY TO FACILITATE CONTACTS WITH FRG TRADE UNION, FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN SUCH PROGRAMS. CASH

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